

PH00.76546

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| STATE:<br>California         |                 |
| COUNTY:<br>Santa Cruz        |                 |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY             |                 |
| ENTRY NUMBER<br>71.3.06.0007 | DATE<br>3/24/71 |

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Octagon Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Hall of Records

**2. LOCATION**

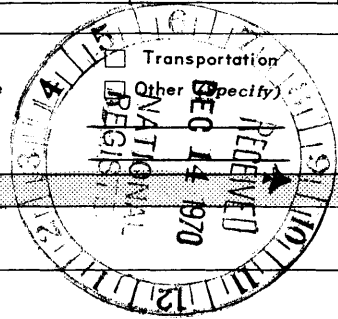
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Corner of Front Street and Cooper Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Santa Cruz 95060

STATE: California CODE: 06 COUNTY: Santa Cruz CODE: 087

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both   | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress         | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No       |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ |



**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
County of Santa Cruz

STREET AND NUMBER:  
701 Ocean Street

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Cruz 95060 STATE: California CODE: 06

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Recorder's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
701 Ocean Street

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Cruz 95060 STATE: California CODE: 06

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Points of Historical Interest

DATE OF SURVEY: June 6, 1969  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
State of California-Resources Agency, Dept. of Parks & Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 2390

CITY OR TOWN: Sacramento 95811 STATE: California CODE: 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California  
COUNTY: Santa Cruz  
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.3.06.0007  
DATE: 3/24/71  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                 |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (Check One)                                 |  |                                | (Check One)                                       |                                |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered       | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1882, the building is an octagonally-shaped, one-story structure. The exterior materials used in the original construction were brick, molded sheet metal designs, a corrugated metal roof, and plastered columns. In the early 1900's, an appendage was added to the building. Due to its faulty foundation, this appendage has strained the Octagon building itself causing cracks in the building wall. Also added was a passageway to the courthouse annex at the rear.

The Octagon Building served as Santa Cruz County's Hall of Records for eighty-six years; that is, until the completion of the new county government building in 1968. Presently, repair and restoration work is being done on the building in preparation for its use as the County's historical museum.

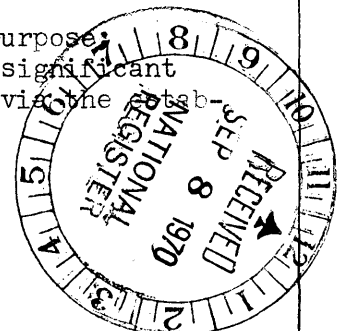
With the aid of a Historic Preservation Grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the process of restoration is underway and expected to be completed by the end of the year. The actual restoration work involves two aspects: 1) exterior work, and 2) interior work.

The purpose of the exterior work will be to restore the building somewhat to its original appearance. This exterior work will include:

- 1) Removal of the Front Street appendage which is presently a structural hazard and which distracts from the building's original octagonal shape
- 2) Structural repair of damaged walls
- 3) Removal of paint from brick to restore original appearance
- 4) Repair and restoration of corrugated roof
- 5) Repair and restoration of molded sheet metal designs
- 6) Restoration of plastered columns

No attempt will be made to restore the interior to its original appearance. Instead, the interior will be redesigned and renovated to accommodate the function of Santa Cruz County's historical museum.

Thus, this restoration work is serving a twofold purpose: 1) preservation of an architecturally and historically significant building, and 2) preservation of the county's heritage via the establishment of a County museum.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

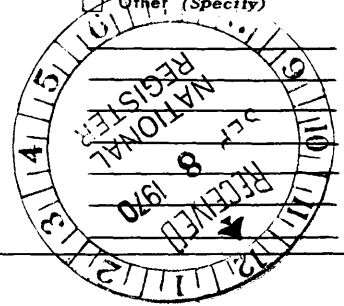
- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

Built in 1882

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1882 at the cost of \$10,000, the Octagon Building is a unique structure for the era in which it was built. Said to be styled after a \$50 gold piece minted in San Francisco in 1851-1852, the building's octagonal shape was a source of both novelty and fascination for 19th century architects. It has survived a number of catastrophes: 1) the fire of 1894 which burned down the adjacent original County courthouse and an entire business block, 2) the 1906 earthquake of San Francisco fame which shook the adjacent courthouse so strongly, removal of its tower was necessary, and 3) a major flood in 1955 which inundated a great portion of the surrounding area as well as the Octagon Building itself.

The Octagon Building has faithfully served as Santa Cruz County's Hall of Records for eighty-six years; that is, until the completion of the new county government building in 1968. Today, to our knowledge, it is the only brick structure of this octagonal shape still remaining in the state.

Already approved by the state as a Historical Point of Interest, and inasmuch as the building itself reflects the heritage of Santa Cruz County, it has been designated the County's official historical museum. As a museum, its function will be to house representative artifacts of the county's heritage, but more importantly, it will also serve as a directional and informational center to point out the county's many "Spots of Historical Interest." Thus, information concerning the county's historical resources can be more readily available to tourists, conventioners, and other visitors as well as to area residents. In this way, this historical museum will have a catalytic effect for it will serve to stimulate the visitor's interest in the county's history and historical spots of interest while facilitating his own "follow-up" with resource information and material.

The museum will also be a major attraction to Santa Cruz County's large senior citizen population for it will serve as a reminder of the county's rich past, and, in addition, it will provide an educational field trip opportunity for school-age youngsters. Thus, it will serve as an educational/recreational adventure for the entire county community.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Santa Cruz Sentinel

News and Notes from the Santa Cruz Historical Society  
(Margaret Koch, editor)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

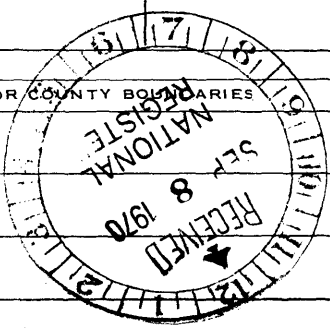
| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |          |         |         | OR      | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |         |              |  |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---------|---|---------|--------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE |         |         |         | LONGITUDE   |         |              |  |
|  | Degrees  | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes   | Seconds |              |  |
| NW   | °        | '       | "       | 36°     | 58'   | 30"     | 122° 01' 29" |  |
| NE   | °        | '       | "       | °       | '   | "       |              |  |
| SE   | °        | '       | "       | °       | '   | "       |              |  |
| SW   | °        | '       | "       | °       | '   | "       |              |  |

LITM  
10/58682  
409232  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .19 Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY  | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Linda Ishihara, Staff member (Jerry Hughes--Director)

ORGANIZATION: County Department of Parks and Recreation DATE: June 29, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 701 Ocean Street

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Cruz 95060 STATE: California CODE: 06

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name [Signature]

Title State Liaison Officer

Date August 3, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date MAR 24 1971

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 22 1971

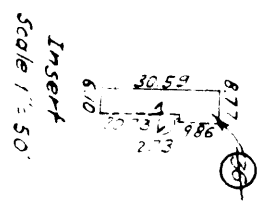
Drawn by S.H. June '63  
 Rev. Feb. 23, 1968, S.H.  
 Rev. July 9, 1968  
 Rev. Oct. 20, 1968 R.F.  
 Rev. Feb. 4, 1967 L.S.

LATITUDE 36° 58' 30"  
 LONGITUDE 122° 01' 29"

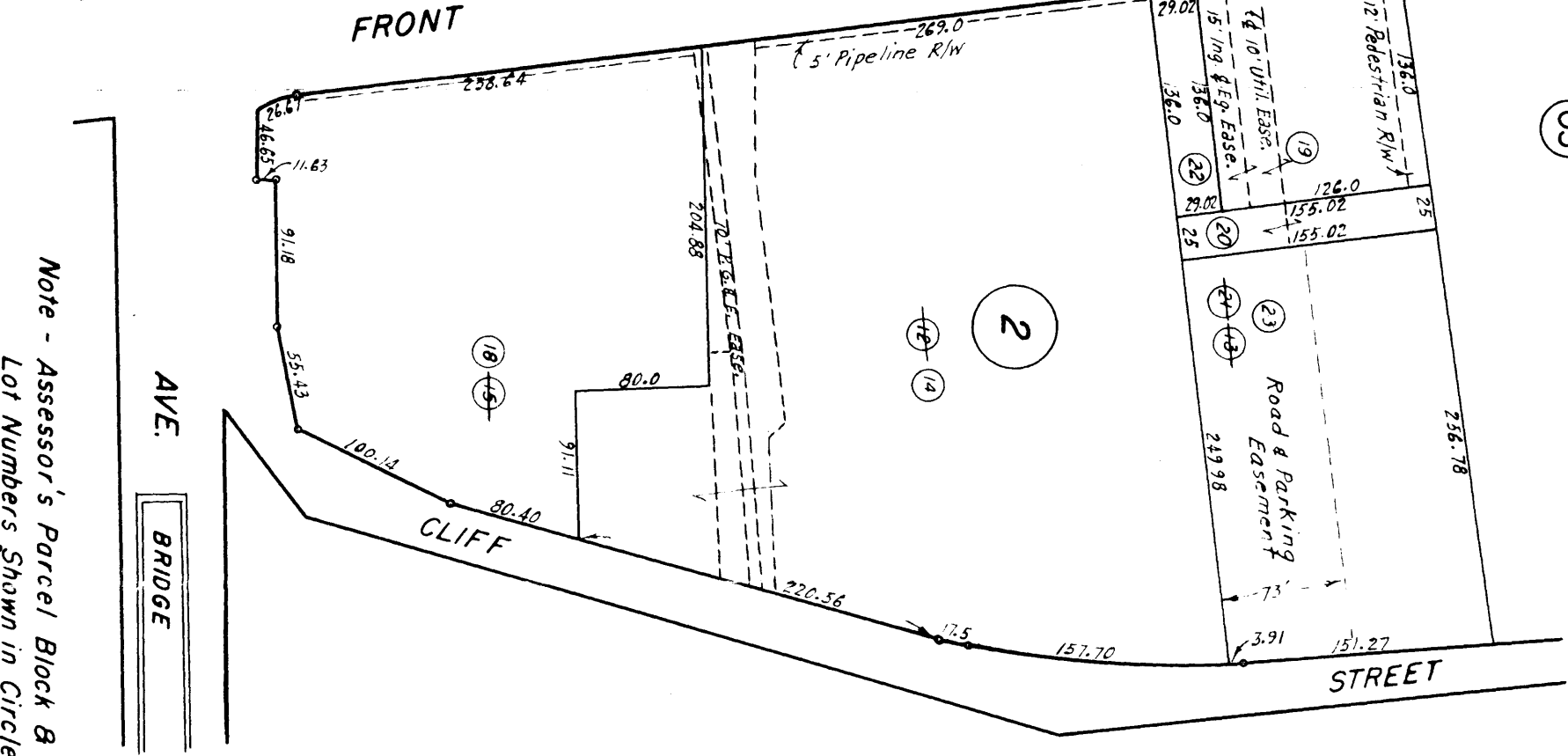
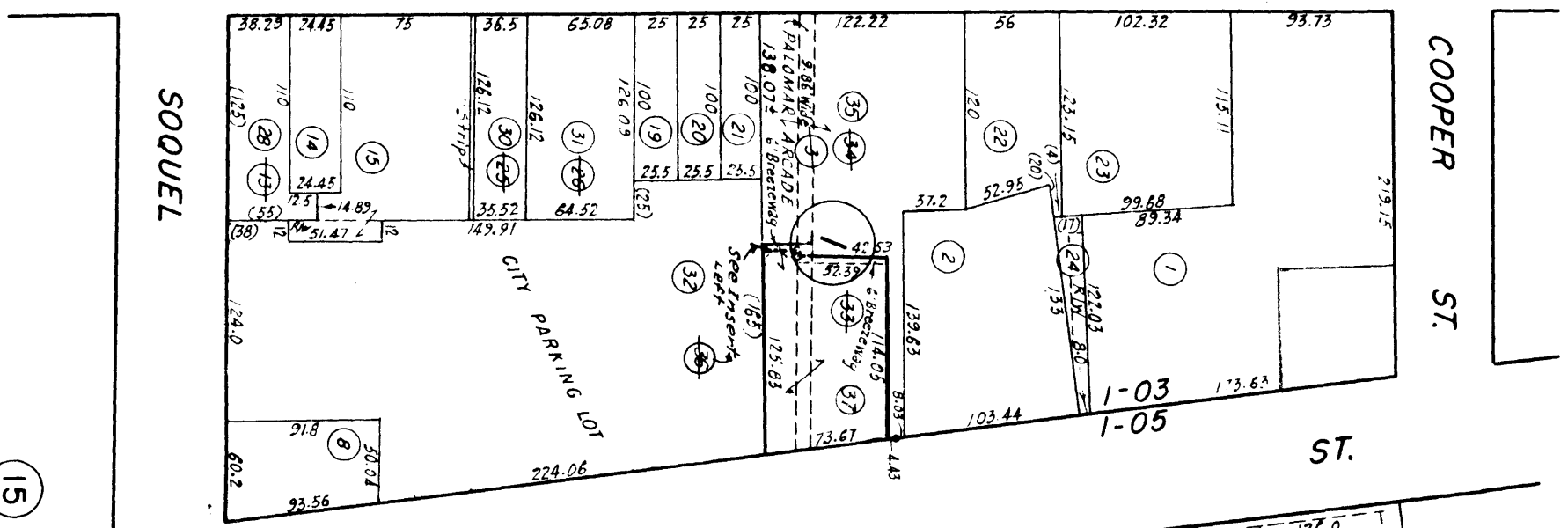
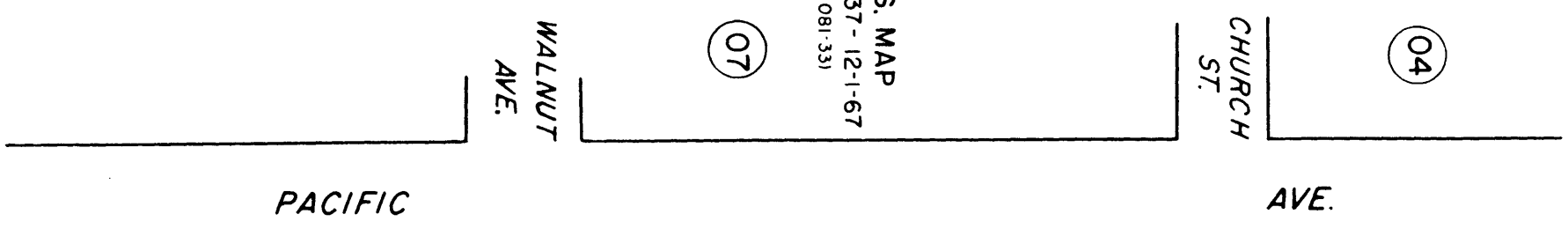
CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

For Area Code  
 1-003 1-005

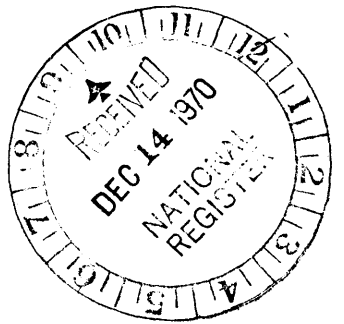
5-08



R.S. MAP  
 M.B. 48-37-12-1-67  
 (5-081-331)



Note - Assessor's Parcel Block B  
 Lot Numbers Shown in Circles.



Assessor's Map  
 Book 5 Page 08  
 City of Santa Cruz  
 County of  
 Santa Cruz, Calif.